

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/077 W

-----010843Z 127368 /11

O R 010555Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5834

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL AFTER ONE YEAR

TAGS: ELAB, EIND, SF, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE BLACK TRADE UNION RECOGNITION: FORD MOTOR

1. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN THE JOHANNESBURG STAR, THE UNITED AUTO RUBBER AND ALLIED WORKERS (UARAW) WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE URBAN TRAINING PROJECT AND THE TRADE UNION COORDINATING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL, PLANS TO APPROACH FORD MOTORS WITHIN DAYS TO SEEK RECOGNITION. THIS ACTION IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY IN RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS BY SPOKESMEN FOR THE BIG THREE MOTOR PLANTS IN THE EASTERN CAPE - FORD, GENERAL MOTORS AND VOLKSWAGEN -- THAT THEY WOULD RECOGNIZE A BLACK TRADE UNION IF IT REPRESENTS 50 PERCENT MORE OF THEIR BLACK WORKERS.

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2. FRED SAULS, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MOTOR ASSEMBLY AND RUBBER WORKERS OF SA, WHO TOOK HIS UNION OUT OF THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUCSA) SEVERAL MONTHS AGO OVER THE ISSUE OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISM, IS PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE UARAW IN ITS REPRESENTATION CAMPAIGN.

3. SAULS HAS INDICATED TO STAR CORRESPONDENT SIEGFRIED HANNIG AND OTHERS THAT THE UARAW NEEDS ONLY FOUR MORE MEMBERS TO HAVE A MAJORITY AMONG FORD'S BLACK EMPLOYEES. SAUL ESTIMATES UARAW'S REPRESENTATION AT GENERAL MOTORS TO BE ABOUT 30 PERCENT AND 20 PERCENT AT VOLKSWAGEN.

4. COMMENT: SAUL WAS THE PRIME MOVER IN A RECENT MEETING OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS FROM THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA IN JOHANNESBURG TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS. HE IS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO FORM A MULTI-RACIAL GROUPING OF REGISTERED (COLORED AND WHITE) AND UNREGISTERED UNIONS (BLACK) WHICH COULD BECOME A THREAT TO TUCSA. FYI THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER AND CAPE TOWN ECONOMIC OFFICER ARE PLANNING TO VISIT EAST LONDON AND PORT ELIZABETH IN MID-APRIL TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER MATTERS WITH FORD, GM AND SAULS.

5. A NUMBER OF OBSERVERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR SCENE HAVE INDICATED TO THE RLO THAT A DECISION BY A MAJOR US COMPANY SUCH AS FORD TO RECOGNIZE A BLACK TRADE UNION COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE DEMONSTRATION EFFECT FOR THE ENTIRE US BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LOBBYING, RECOGNITION, LABOR UNIONS, AUTOMOBILE WORKERS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** POSSIBLE BLACK TRADE UNION RECOGNITION: FORD MOTOR  
**TAGS:** ELAB, EIND, SF, US, FORD MOTOR CO, (SAULS, FRED)  
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